

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed September 2, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein.

Claims 1-18 remain in the present application.

As part of this amendment, the disclosure has been amended to correct previously undetected informalities. No new matter has been entered.

In the September 2, 2004 Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-12, and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,778,237 issued to Yamamoto et al. (hereinafter "Yamamoto"). Applicant has amended the claims to clearly distinguish over Yamamoto.

Amended claim 1 states:

A processor comprising:

a plurality of circuit blocks;
a plurality of local voltage regulators to each independently provide a local supply voltage to one of the plurality of circuit blocks, each of the plurality of local voltage regulators being co-located with the circuit block powered by the respective local supply voltage; and

a global power grid to power each of the plurality of local voltage regulators with a global supply voltage.

In amended claim 1, a processor includes a number of circuit blocks. Co-located with each of these circuit blocks is a local voltage regulator that independently provides a local supply voltage for the respective circuit block. A global power grid powers each of the local voltage regulators with a global supply voltage.

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Yamamoto, in contrast, is directed to a centralized power distribution arrangement. In Yamamoto, a processor includes a centralized power circuit that generates multiple operating voltages and selects which of those operating voltages to supply to various parts of the processor (Yamamoto: Fig. 7, elements 310, 313, and 3141-3143; Col. 15, Lines 45-67). In other words, to provide different voltages to different parts of the processor, Yamamoto must include a number of separate power connections from the centralized power circuit to each of the various parts of the processor.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yamamoto has nothing whatsoever to do with distributed voltage regulation. That is, Yamamoto does not suggest, disclose, or enable multiple independent voltage regulators co-located with respective circuit blocks in a processor, as claimed in amended claim 1. Furthermore, Yamamoto does not suggest, disclose, or enable a single global power grid to power the local voltage regulators, as claimed in amended claim 1.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Yamamoto.

Applicant submits that the reasoning presented above with respect to amended claim 1 similarly applies to claims 2, 4-5, 7-12, and 14-18. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 4-5, 7-12, and 14-18 are likewise not anticipated by Yamamoto.

In the September 2, 2004 Office Action, claims 3, 6, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,932,987 issued to McLoughlin (hereinafter "McLoughlin"). Applicant respectfully submits that the reasoning presented above with respect to Yamamoto similarly applies to claims 3, 6, and 13, as amended, and that McLoughlin does not cure these deficiencies of Yamamoto. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 6, and 13 are patentable over Yamamoto in view of McLoughlin.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-18, as amended, are now in a condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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